

Volume I

No. 3



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

DEBATES

Tuesday, 12th August, 1947

OFFICIAL REPORT

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

Tuesday, the 12th August, 1947

The Constituent Assembly of Pakistan met in the Assembly Chamber at Karachi, at Ten of the Clock on Tuesday, the 12th August, 1947, the President (Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah) in the Chair.

Mr. President: Any Member who has not yet presented his credentials may do so now.

(No body came forward.)

RESOLUTION *re* : APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AND MINORITIES OF PAKISTAN

***The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan** (East Bengal : Muslim) :
Sir, I beg to move :

"That this Assembly resolves that a committee consisting of the President and the following members, namely :

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Khan Nishtar,
Dr. Mahmud Husain,
Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar,
The Honourable Mr. M. A. Khuhro,
Sheikh Karamat Ali,
Prof. Raj Kumar Chakraverty,
The Honourable Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan,
Mr. Prem Hari Barma,
The Honourable Mr. Fazlur Rahman,
Begum Shah Nawaz,
Mr. Birat Chandra Mandal,
Dr. Ishutiaq Husain Qureshi,
Mr. Abul Kasem Khan,
The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal, and
the Mover,

be appointed to advise this Assembly on Fundamental Rights of citizens of Pakistan and on matters relating to the minorities with power to the President to nominate not more than seven other members who need not be Members of the Constituent Assembly."

Sir, the resolution is self-explanatory and it is not necessary for me to make any long speech on the motion which I have moved. It is necessary that the Constituent Assembly should have the benefit of the advice of a committee which can examine this question in greater

*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[*The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan.*]

detail and more conveniently than if the whole of the Constituent Assembly were to sit together to examine the details. Power has been given under this resolution or power is intended to be given under this resolution to the President of the Constituent Assembly to nominate not more than seven persons as members of the Committee that I have proposed. The object of giving this power is to be able to give representation to those minorities that are not represented in this House, and such other interests which it may be necessary to place on this Committee. I hope, Sir, that this motion will get the support of the Members of this Honourable House.

Mr. President : The question is :

"That this Assembly resolves that a committee consisting of the President and the following members, namely :

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Khan Nishtar,
Dr. Mahmud Husain,
Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar,
The Honourable Mr. M. A. Khuhro,
Sheikh Karamat Ali,
Prof. Raj Kumar Chakraverty,
The Honourable Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan,
Mr. Prem Hari Barma,
The Honourable Mr. Fazlur Rahman,
Begum Shah Nawaz,
Mr. Birat Chandra Mandal,
Dr. Ishtiaq Husain Qureshi,
Mr. Abul Kasem Khan,
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be appointed to advise this Assembly on Fundamental Rights of citizens of Pakistan and on matters relating to the minorities with power to the President to nominate not more than seven other members who need not be Members of the Constituent Assembly."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *re*: ADDRESSING MR. MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH AS QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

***The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan** (East Bengal : Muslim) :
Sir, I beg to move :

"That this Assembly resolves that Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, President of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan and Governor-General designate of Pakistan be addressed as 'Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Governor-General of Pakistan' in all official Acts, documents, letters and correspondence from August 15, 1947."

Sir, this resolution is moved in order to seek the formal approval of this Constituent Assembly to the form of address by which you

*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

are already known not only throughout this country but throughout the world. Quaid-i-Azam means great leader and I do not think there is any doubt in the mind of anybody that today you are the great leader of Pakistan. I need not say, Sir, and repeat what I said yesterday about yourself. It is considered necessary that there should be one definite form of address by which the head of Pakistan should be addressed and should be referred to in all the official correspondence, Acts, letters, etc., and that is the object of this resolution. I am sure there would not be any Member in this House who would not give his support to the motion which I have moved.

Mr. President : Motion moved :

"That this Assembly resolves that Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, President of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan and Governor-General designate of Pakistan be addressed as 'Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Governor-General of Pakistan' in all official Acts, documents, letters and correspondence from August 15, 1947."

Mr. Bhupendra Kumar Datta (East Bengal : General) : Sir, I take my stand to oppose this resolution. I feel it my democratic duty to do so. I only beg to remind the House that we are in the year 1947 and it is too late in the day to move a resolution like this today in this Constituent Assembly. It is a personal and delicate matter, so I do not propose to deliver a speech on it. I have every faith and hope that the Honourable the President himself will ask the Honourable the Mover of the resolution to withdraw it.

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Khan Nishtar : For what reasons? What reasons do you give ?

Mr. Sris Chandra Chattopadhyaya (East Bengal : General) : Mr. President, I will also oppose this resolution on principle. I am against all titles and I think that Mr. President also will not like this title. Mr. President, you were our leader once and I am the only man surviving at present ; and I am sure Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah will not like any title. This is not against the leadership of Mr. Jinnah, but only on principle. The President knows it that I always oppose this sort of titles and therefore I oppose this resolution.

Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta (East Bengal : General) : Mr. President, Sir, I rise to oppose this resolution. The reason is clear. We on this side of the House do not mean any disrespect to the high personage of Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah. We stand on different grounds altogether. We are opposed to the conferment of the title on principle. No title should be conferred at least in the year 1947. What do we aim at ? We aim at the establishment of socialistic form of Government ; and in all socialistic countries titles have been dispensed with. Even in the Indian Union in the Fundamental Rights it has been stated that no title shall be

[*Mr. Dharendra Nath Datta.*]

conferred upon any person. So, Sir, we oppose on principles even at the risk of being misunderstood. And, moreover, Sir, the title is a matter of affection. It cannot be a matter of the Constituent Assembly. So, Sir, even at the risk of being misunderstood we rise to oppose it because we feel that on principle we cannot but oppose this resolution. I think, Sir, further consideration should be given to it by the Members present in the House today. I know what affection the majority of the Members has for you; and there is every reason, Sir, to have such affection for you. But, Sir, on principle there should be no conferment of title and on that principle, Sir, I oppose this resolution.

Mr. Abdul Hamid (Sylhet : Muslim) : Sir, we have been using Quaid-i-Azam, the great revered letter, up to the present day. It is just for the sake of having uniformity that we have proposed "Quaid-i-Azam" to be addressed in all official documents, &c. I quite appreciate the reason of my Honourable friends on my right for opposing the resolution. But I must point out that they have not up till now objected to the word "Mahatma" for Gandhiji. So I may tell my Honourable friends that just for the sake of uniformity we are going to add "Quaid-i-Azam" in official documents. I know Mahatma Gandhiji's name is officially being used everywhere and I dare say this will continue in the official documents of Hindustan Government.

Mr. Nur Ahmad (East Bengal : Muslim) : Sir, with your permission I wish to make a few observations. I can well understand the objection of my Honourable friends so far this resolution is concerned. I am myself against conferment of all titles. In Bengal Legislative Council I moved a resolution in 1937 for the abolition of titles. But, Sir, I find that my Honourable Congress friends are labouring under a misapprehension; it is not a title in the true sense of the word that has been proposed by the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution. It is a sort of recognition of the inestimable services of one of the greatest leaders of the world. The word "Quaid-i-Azam" as has been explained by the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan means the "Great Leader". I am sure no one will deny that Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah is the greatest leader of India. As there is no objection to put the name "Mahatma" before Gandhiji, I do not see any reason why there should be any objection to this letter "Quaid-i-Azam" who has made history within the course of less than half a decade. I have no hesitation in saying that of all the greatest leaders, Mr. Jinnah is the foremost than whom there is no greater leader so far as we are concerned. I, therefore, beg my Honourable friends on the Congress Benches not to object to this resolution. Sir, I ask them to withdraw their objection.

Mr. Sachindra Narayan Sanyal (East Bengal : General) : Mr. President, it does not matter whether you are given a title or not, but the

main thing is that you are our leader. You are the accepted leader not only of this House but you are also the Governor-General designate of Pakistan. But personally I am against the title on principle. I am very sorry to mention about something of my personal affairs. I am called myself as a 'Raja' in my zamindari. I have never got and in fact I have never tried to hold the title of Raja. But people even call me Maharaja. I know all the same that I am a man as they are so that I can be of help to them in proper way. As far as I remember, Sir, it was first Mahatma Gandhi who addressed you as Quaid-i-Azam but you can tell us whether it is so. Well, Sir, I think it is no good to discuss all these points but we all hope that the whole House will be against the title and I am sure you will also take the same view. This is all I can say at present. But let me make it clear that I mean no disrespect to you. We have accepted you as a leader and it does not matter at all whether you hold this title or not.

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal (East Bengal : General): Sir, had not the Honourable Members who have opposed this motion made a personal appeal to you, I would not have participated in the debate. It has pained me very much to listen to the speeches delivered in opposing the motion in view of the fact that only yesterday Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy, the Leader of the Congress Party in this Assembly, described you not only as a great Leader of the Muslim community but as a great Leader of Pakistan and one of the greatest leaders of the country.

Now, Sir, what is the title that is conferred on you? The Quaid-i-Azam, which means a great leader. Who does not know not only in India but in the whole world that Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah is better described as the Quaid-i-Azam? No name is necessary to introduce him. If any man only utters Quaid-i-Azam, then Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah is known.

Sir, before I dilate upon other points, I would like to make an earnest appeal to you that you should not express your opinion about it. It is the desire of the House that will be carried and not your desire. Personally, if you feel embarrassed, I would submit that there is no cause of embarrassment. We have got our reasons. Members who have opposed this resolution have given no reasons but have made a personal appeal to you. They ought to have adduced their reasons. I will express my reasons why this motion should be carried by this House and why the description—I should not call it the title—of Quaid-i-Azam should be added to your name. One Honourable Member has said that it is a token of love and affection. I quite agree with him. It is a token of love and affection and it is not a new thing. You are already better known as Quaid-i-Azam. It is not that you are being glorified by this title, but the sole aim and object of this motion is to introduce some sort of uniformity in official documents and addresses. There is no other object behind it.

[*The Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal.*]

Of course, I would be quite prepared and happy to listen to the Honourable Members if they had ceased to describe Mr. Gandhi as Mahatma Gandhi or if they had ceased to describe Mr. C. R. Das as Deshabandhu C. R. Das or if they had ceased to describe Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru is not a Pandit, but it is only a sort of title that is conferred upon him. Everybody knows him as Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru but the Congress has ceased to describe him as such. Now, they come forward with the noble idea that this Constituent Assembly of Pakistan should not confer any title. It does not behove them to say so. I do not know whether other Honourable Members know them or not but I know very well their mentality. In the course of my speeches delivered in the town of Jalpaiguri when I described Mahatma Gandhi as Mr. Gandhi, there was hue and cry raised from different quarters. And when I said what was my fault, they began to cry 'withdraw, withdraw'. They created lot of fuss and it was published in the press in bold lines. Now, my friends say that the title of Quaid-i-Azam should not be conferred. I am prepared to accept their submission but they must record in the Constituent Assembly of India that Mr. Gandhi should no longer be called Mahatma Gandhi. He is not a Mahatma; he is only a political leader. Here we are describing our leader as a leader and not a Mahatma. Can anybody dispute that Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah is not a great leader? If they can say so, I am prepared to accept their opposition. They know it fully well that it is not a title. But before my Congress friends come with this sort of proposal, they should write to the Constituent Assembly of India to stop calling Mr. Gandhi as Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Chitaranjan Das as Deshabandhu Chitaranjan Das. Not only is Mr. Gandhi described as Mahatma but Gangadhar Tilak was also described by his title. Many other patriots have been described by various titles. Are they prepared here and now to describe Mr. Gandhi as Mr. Gandhi? Before they make a request to this House to delete the expression Quaid-i-Azam from the name of Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, let a resolution be passed in the Constituent Assembly of India saying that the word 'Mahatma' should no longer be used before the name of Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Chitaranjan Das should no longer be described as Deshabandhu and Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru should no longer be described as Pandit.

An Honourable Member : That is an inconvenient question.

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal : When you come to your leaders, you are very affectionate to them and you cannot call Mahatma Gandhi as Mr. Gandhi. If you do not put the word 'Mahatma' before Mr. Gandhi's name, your heart is not pleased. Similarly, if we do not call Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Quaid-i-Azam, we are not pleased. Therefore, we must have uniformity in the official records and the expres-

sion "Quaid-i-Azam" should be added before his name. You know it is not a title.

I want to make it perfectly clear that it is no title. It is no conferment of title. Of course, the question will come up before the House for decision whether the Dominion of Pakistan will agree to confer titles. At that time I shall be prepared to listen to our friends and hear some very national utterances from their mouths but at this stage we are not prepared to listen to anything. It is quite sentimental. This objection has been raised only for the sake of objection. It has got no rationality, no justification behind it and I would like to make it clear once again that they should in all fairness withdraw it. So long as Mr. Gandhi is described as Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. C. R. Das is described as Deshabandhu Chitranjan Das, Mr. Jawaharlal is described as Pandit Jawaharlal, they should agree to accept our "Quaid-i-Azam" and when it is incorporated in the constitution of the Dominion of India that they will no longer be described with their titles then I would request this Assembly also to delete "Quaid-i-Azam" from the name of Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah. At present I would only request them that they should in all fairness withdraw their opposition because they know it better that their opposition is not genuine. We are all anxious that we must confer this token of love to your name, Sir. Therefore, before I take my seat I would make a personal request to you not to intervene in this matter. Before the House expresses its view you, Sir, cannot intervene and express your opinion. We know that there was no soul in India more patriotic than Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, we still know that there is seldom any other person more patriotic than Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah and we know that he does not care for any title. We know he may even express his opinion for the stoppage of conferment of titles, but, Sir, this is no title. It is a token of affection. Unless we call him "Quaid-i-Azam" we are not satisfied, we are not contented. Therefore, you cannot deprive us of the satisfaction that we want to derive by describing you as "Quaid i-Azam". This is my earnest appeal and I think while I say so I voice the opinion of the entire House, except of a few who have raised objections. Sir, I would appeal to this Assembly to accept unanimously the motion moved by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan and we must show our affection and regard for the Quaid-i-Azam.

Mr. Azizuddin Ahmad (East Bengal : Muslim): Sir, I rise to reply to my friends on the other side. Sir, when Mr. Gandhi wanted to know whether he should address you as Jinnah Sahab or as Quaid-i-Azam you replied that a rose smells as sweet by whatever name you call it and after that he used to address you as Quaid-i-Azam. Sir, in East Bengal from which I come, and in Barisal, the district of my friend Mr. Mandal, and the district of Mr. Fazlul Huq, throughout people know you more as Quaid-i-Azam than as Mr. Jinnah. We have come from East Bengal at the call of

[*Mr. Azizuddin Ahmad.*]

Quaid-i-Azam and worked for the Muslim League and for Pakistan for these years in the name of Quaid-i-Azam and the name "Quaid-i-Azam" has become very near and dear to us. We may forget the name of Mr. Jinnah but would not forget our beloved Quaid-i-Azam. So, Sir, I would request my friends from Bengal who have raised this objection to the motion put forward by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan to withdraw their objection and to allow us to have this opportunity to call our beloved Quaid-i-Azam as "Quaid-i-Azam" and I think this objection should be withdrawn in all fairness and decency.

The Honourable Mr. Mohammad Ali (East Bengal: Muslim): Sir, it is very surprising that opposition to this Resolution has come from a political party that has been generous in giving titles to their own leaders. We have not only the instance of Deshabandhu C. R. Das but we have such instances like Deshpriya J. M. Sen Gupta, the "Rashtrapati" and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose has been idolised by the Congress as "Netaji". Even the other day, in Calcutta, it was proposed that Clive Street should be re-named as "Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Street". That is also the recognition of a title conferred by the same political party which today voices opposition to this Resolution.

Sir, I only want to point out that this Resolution does not confer any title. It simply ensures the recognition of the fact that the nation has called you as "Quaid-i-Azam" and, most important of all, the Resolution proposes to drop the title of "His Excellency". That is a fact which has been lost sight of by the Congress Party. This is a Resolution which proposes for the first time in the history of the world to drop the honorific of "His Excellency" from the Governor-General of a Dominion. Sir, this is the most democratic thing that could have been done by this Constituent Assembly and should have been appreciated by the members of the Congress Party. Sir, the "Quaid-i-Azam" is not a title. It is a form of address. It is an address to the great Leader of the nation. In this view of the matter I am sure that the Congress Party will realise the implication of the Resolution which drops the honorific of "His Excellency" and does not involve the conferment of any title. It is merely an official recognition of an accomplished fact.

Mr. Sachindra Narayan Sanyal: Will this description be applied to future Governors-General of Pakistan?

Dr. A. M. Malik (East Bengal: Muslim): Mr. President, Sir, I only want to give an answer to my friends over the right, Sir. They have raised the question that "Quaid-i-Azam" is a title. We say that it is not a title. The reason is as my friend Mr. Datta has rightly said that it is 1947, when we are doing away with titles and I also maintain that it is in 1947, when we have to determine whether we have to address somebody as Srijut, Mr. or Babu. The time has come when by legislation or by convention we

shall have to decide how to address a gentleman : as we used to do previously when we were under British rule as " Mr." or as the Indian Constitution is going to do—to address a person as Srijut or Babu. We have started today first to decide how we will address our great Leader. Naturally, I ask my friends over the Congress Benches to think whether the words "His Excellency", "His Majesty", etc., were given outside the Legislature or outside the Government or by the consent of the Government. I think, so far as I remember, that these things are done by convention from the Government, not offered, and that is why the Resolution that has been put forward by Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan is quite in order.

Before we settle how we should address others, I think at this stage we must first begin with our great Leader and decide how to address him and later on when we frame our constitution we will decide how to address Honourable Members on this side and that side. Sir, Quaid-i-Azam is not a title, neither it is outside the purview of the era of 1947. It is only a form how to address him. This is my humble suggestion and I wish that my Congress friends here should accept the motion moved by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan.

Malik Mohammad Firoz Khan Noon (West Punjab : Muslim): I wish that the Honourable Members on my left realising the delicacy of the question that we are discussing had refrained from raising the objection which they have. I feel that the objection is not a serious one and they have not brought forward a single argument to show why we the people of Pakistan should not use these words with the name of our great Leader. It may be that the Honourable Members have not a back-ground of Persian or Urdu literature and do not realise the meaning of the words "Quaid-i-Azam". Supposing we had used the words "Sadr-i-Azam" as we have made him our President, they would probably still have objected. I remember once in the Frontier province an agitation was started in which the words "Inqalab Zindahbad" went to the remotest villages and the Pathans did not understand the meaning of the words "Inqalab Zindahbad" but were merely shouting them out. Eventually they took a deputation to the Political Officer and said to him that they had two demands to make and these must be satisfied. He asked them : what are they? They replied that they wanted him to forthwith release the two men, Mr Inqalab and Mr. Zindahbad. We are in a similar situation today because my friends do not understand the meaning of the words "Quaid-i-Azam".

Secondly, my Honourable friend on the left side said that he had the title of Rajah and he was sometimes called Maharaja by his servants and tenants. I remember the case of a groom talking to other servants saying : "When the Sahib in the house calls me 'Sir' I feel puffed up and great." I am afraid the reason why the title of Rajah stinks everybody's nostrils in this country is that it is conferred by a foreign Government for services not rendered to the people but to the foreigner. Therefore there

[*Malik Mohammad Firoz Khan Noon.*]

could be no comparison of the title of Rajah with that which the Nation confers upon their beloved Leader.

Mr. Sachindra Narayan Sanyal : I am sorry you have forgotten what I have said.

Malik Mohammad Firoz Khan Noon : I would here quote a line from the Persian couplet. It says :

"Cheh nisbat khak ra ba alam-i-pak."

(There is the difference of heaven and earth between the two.)

Therefore to draw comparisons like this is not fair. It is not a title, it is a word, that we want to confer on our President, on our Leader. Let me tell you that where it is the case of a nation, the throne is always bigger than the man who occupies it. Our Leader is there and the throne which he occupies today for the nation is the biggest thing that can occur to us and as soon as we have got our freedom, we want to recognise the services of our great Leader by calling him *the* great Leader. You ought to take pride in it and share the pride with us instead of getting up and raising petty objections.

Sir, I do not wish to take any more of your time. I appeal to the Honourable Members that they should withdraw their objection, because it hurts our feelings even to have this matter discussed. They know what the feelings of the majority community are and in view of the delicacy of the ground which they are treading and the seriousness of the situation, I appeal to them to withdraw their objection very gracefully.

Mian Muhammad Iftikhar-ud-din (West Punjab : Muslim) : Mr. President, my reasons for supporting the motion of the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan are purely democratic. I do not wish to call you "Your Excellency". My Congress friends forget that we cannot, unless we find another form of address, drop the words "His Excellency" from the name of the Governor General. The reason why it is not necessary to confer a title by legislation on Gandhiji is because he does not and is not going to occupy a position which of necessity has any title, such as that of 'His Excellency' attached to it. Since we would rather not use that British form of address a way out has been provided to us now by the words "Quaid-i-Azam". There is another reason for it also. During the last 10 or 15 years, even since the Radio has begun to function—I would like the Congress friends to be honest here—every time it uttered "Mr. Gandhi" or "Mr. Jinnah", in the case of the former Hindus and in the case of the latter Muslims felt a slight national insult. The first thing that on the 15th of August one would wish to hear is that instead of "Mr. Jinnah" he be called "Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah" and instead of Mr. Gandhi, Gandhiji be called "Mahatma Gandhi". That will be a welcome change from the Imperial Radio of the past. I may point out that Mahatma

is a 'title', which may not be within the domain of ordinary beings to confer : it is more for the Almighty to judge whether his soul is great or not. We as human beings have every right to give a human title. All the same I wish that Gandhiji be called Mahatma Gandhi on the Pakistan Radio in future, and Mr. Jinnah, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah on Hindustan Radio.

It is, you will admit, a purely democratic move. By what method, by what manner, I ask my friends here, can we express our appreciation of our Leader ? Is it or is it not a fact that in the hearts of each and every Hindu Gandhiji is Mahatma Gandhi ? Is it or is it not a fact that in the heart of every Muslim Mr. Jinnah is Quaid-i-Azam ? It is in the fitness of things that on the 15th of August our hearts' desire be expressed by the Radios of our respective States, just as on that day the Hindustan flag will fly over the Viceregal Lodge, and the Pakistan flag will fly over this building here. It is for purely democratic reasons, I repeat, I support this resolution. If five or five-hundred years hence the people unanimously consider a person to be a Mahatma again let that person be called Mahatma. Similarly if ever in future people so unanimously regard a person as their Quaid-i-Azam let him be called Quaid-i-Azam. It would not have been necessary to move this resolution today but because of the fact that Mr. Jinnah occupies a position today which the usual practice would have made it necessary for us to call him "His Excellency" which I repeat I would hate to do. Hence my support for motion and I am sure my Congress friends, realising the correctness of this stand, will withdraw their opposition.

Mr. Abdulla-al Mahmood (East Bengal : Muslim) : Sir, I move a closure now.

Mr. President : I think quite a fair number of speakers have taken part in this debate by now, and there is no need to have any further discussion. If the Honourable Member insists on closure, I will have to take it up, but I think the House will agree that no further discussion is needed as the subject has been thrashed out by so many people. I shall now call upon Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : Sir, if I may, I would begin my remarks with a biblical touch.....

Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar (West Punjab : General) : Sir, may I put a question ? Will my friend yield to it ? I ask your permission to put a question to my friend. He was speaking, and yielded place to me. If I may, I would, with your permission, put a question.

Mr. President : He has not started speaking yet.

Order, order, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan

***The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan** : Sir, I was saying that if I may begin my remarks with a biblical touch I would say, "Father forgive them for they know not what they are talking about".

[*The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan.*]

Sir, the speeches that have been made by the Opposition to the motion show that my Honourable friends are confused between the appellation "Quaid-i-Azam" and an ordinary title that is conferred by Government.

Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, if I put my question that would clarify the position. Do I understand from the speech of my Honourable friend the last speaker, that the appellation "Quaid-i-Azam" takes the place of "His Excellency"? Is that correct? Do I understand that other Governors-General of Pakistan, instead of being described as "His Excellency" will be described as "Quaid-i-Azam"?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan : I cannot say what the future Governors-General will be described as. I cannot say whether there will be any future Governor-General in Pakistan. Therefore it is no use my Honourable friend asking me to tie myself down or to tie this House down to any particular definite decision on this point. My Honourable friend seems to have some confusion on the question of calling our President Mohammad Ali Jinnah as "Quaid-i-Azam". Sir, this is not unknown in the history of other countries. Any one who has rendered services to the nation like what Quaid-i-Azam has done to the Muslim nation in India, has always been described in some endearing term or the other. Do not Honourable Members know that when Mustafa Kamal Pasha was always called in all official documents as "Atta Turk", it meant the "Father of the Turkish Nation"?

My Honourable friends have talked about socialism. I do not know whether their socialism is confined to the two annas class that you find in the bazar or to real socialism: But are they not aware that the great socialist communist Stalin is called Generallissimo, which means the great General? In other words, had it been any country whether Persia, or Arabia, or any community or nation, they would have called him "Quaid-i-Azam". Sir the motion is quite clear. What is desired is that there should be uniformity in all official Acts, documents, letters, correspondence and so on. Even today our President is known throughout the world as Quaid-i-Azam. What has been happening in the past? Some people had been addressing Quaid-i-Azam as Shah-in-Shah of Pakistan. Some had been addressing him as Badshah of Pakistan. Some others had been addressing him in a different way. Now he is not only the President of of the Constituent Assembly and the head of the State, but he is also Governor-General. That means he is also the legal head of the State. Therefore it has been considered necessary and essential that there should be, as far as official correspondence is concerned, uniformity in the form of address for Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. My Honourable friend raised the question whether he would be called, because he is the Governor-General, His Excellency or not. All that I can tell him is that if he did not address the Quaid-i-Azam as His Excellency Quaid-i-Azam

Mohammad Ali Jinnah, he will not be regarded as having committed an act of discourtesy. Sir, I was rather surprised that there should have been any opposition to this motion, but, as I said, I feel that the opposition is based on misunderstanding and misconception. The object of this resolution is clear. Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah is known today throughout the world as Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Whether you pass this resolution or you do not pass this resolution, you cannot take away the endearing term from his nation. The nation has conferred this name on him long ago, before your Constituent Assembly came into existence. All that is now desired is that in all official Acts, correspondence and so on, there should be this definite form of address with regard to Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Therefore, Sir, it is quite clear that barring a few friends here, the whole House is unanimously in favour of this proposition, and I hope that those of my Honourable friends who oppose the motion, they would reconsider their decision in view of what has been stated, and would not oppose the motion which is right and sensible, and which is something which this Constituent Assembly, I feel, should pass.

Mr. President : The question is :

“ That this Assembly resolves that Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, President of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan and Governor-General designate of Pakistan be addressed as ‘ Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Governor-General of Pakistan ’ in all official Acts, documents, letters and correspondence from August 15, 1947 ”.

The motion was adopted.

NOMINATION OF THE PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. President : I have nominated the Panel of Chairmen as follows :

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan,
Dr. Umar Hyat Malik,
Sardar Bahadur Khan,
Mr. Kiran Sanker Roy.

Any one of them will preside over the Assembly in my absence when so requested by me. •

The Assembly then adjourned till Quarter to Nine of the Clock, on Thursday, the 14th August, 1947.

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